



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

*DEPARTMENT OF
MENTAL HEALTH, MENTAL RETARDATION AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES*

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For Immediate Release

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**SUICIDE PREVENTION, INTERVENTION & HEALING CONFERENCE
MAY 2 & 3, VIRGINIA BEACH**

RICHMOND—The Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, with support from the Department of Health and the Virginia Suicide Prevention Council, will host the 3rd Annual Statewide Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Healing Conference, Thursday and Friday, May 2 and 3, at the Doubletree Hotel, 1900 Pavilion Drive, Virginia Beach. (**Agenda attached**)

“Suicide in Virginia claims the life of one teenager a week, and nearly two adults a day. It is an important challenge for both mental health and health professionals in the Commonwealth. The training provided at this conference is vital for our staff, the private sector, families and survivors, and others who work or participate in education, the faith community, law enforcement, and the criminal justice and courts systems,” said James S. Reinhard, M.D., Commissioner.

Dr. Reinhard will open the conference beginning at 8 am on Thursday, May 2. He will introduce Colonel David Litts, O.D., Special Advisor to the Assistant Secretary for Health and the U.S. Surgeon General for Suicide Prevention. Dr. Litts is the Surgeon General’s representative for the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention, serving as Assistant Managing Editor and contributing writer for the National Strategy: Goals and Objectives for Action.

Governor Warner has proclaimed May 7 Childhood Depression Awareness Day to focus attention on serious depression in youth and its relationship to suicide. In the past two years, Virginia has become a nationally recognized leader in youth suicide prevention.

For more information about suicide in Virginia, see the Department of Health’s website: <http://www.preventsuicideva.org/>

Conference Schedule

Thursday, May 2, 2002

8:00a.m.-9:30p.m.	Opening Session <i>Welcome</i> Karen Marshall James Vetter, Ed.M. <i>Opening Remarks</i> James S. Reinhard, M.D. Acting Commissioner, DMHMRSAS <i>Keynote Speaker</i> Col. (Dr.) David Litts Special Advisor to the U.S. Surgeon General <u><i>“National Strategy for Suicide Prevention: A Public Health Prescription for the Community”</i></u>	Ballroom
9:45a.m.-11:00a.m.	Breakout Sessions Panel: Survivors of Suicide by Loss The Connection Between Suicide and Violence Suicide Postvention in A School Setting Suicide Prevention and the Juvenile Justice System Suicide and the University Setting Suicide and the Elderly Cop-2-Cop	Cedar Ballroom Sequoia Oak Royal Palm Crepe Myrtle Maple
11:00a.m.-11:15a.m.	Break	Lobby and Exhibition Area
11:15a.m.-12:30p.m.	Breakout Sessions Panel: Adolescent Suicide Media Guidelines for Suicide Reporting SOS: Maury High School What the Bible Says About Suicide Writing to Heal Enhancing the Positive: Resiliency and Coping Skills for Youth	Oak Royal Palm Sequoia Cedar Maple Crepe Myrtle
12:30p.m.-1:15p.m.	Lunch <i>Introduction of Lunch Keynote Speaker</i> Karen Marshall	Ballroom
1:15p.m.-1:45p.m.	Lunch Keynote Speaker Paul Quinnett, Ph.D. <u><i>“Sex, Hope and the Psychology of Fishing”</i></u>	Ballroom
2:00p.m.-3:15p.m.	Breakout Sessions Panel: Depression Across the Lifespan Substance Use, Abuse and Prevention: Assessing Risk And Preventing Bad Outcomes Reducing Suicide Risk: Sexual Orientation/Gender Identity Children of Jonah: Stories of Survivors Training First Responders QPR/Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training Model Overviews and Discussion The Influence of Rock and Roll Music	Cedar Ballroom Crepe Myrtle Oak Sequoia Maple Royal Palm

3:15p.m.-3:30p.m.	Break	Lobby and Exhibition Area
3:30p.m.-4:30p.m.	General Session <u>Virginia's Youth Suicide Prevention Plan</u> James Vetter, Ed.M., VDH Betsy Draine, L.C.S.W., DMHMRSAS	Ballroom
4:30p.m.-5:00p.m.	State Planning and Day Two's Charge Reese Butler Margaret Nimmo Crowe	Ballroom
<u>Friday, May 3, 2002</u>		
7:30a.m.-8:30a.m.	Introduction to Tai Chi	Pool Deck Area
8:45a.m.-11:30a.m.	Regional Planning Sessions Region One Region Two Region Three Region Four Region Five	Oak Crepe Myrtle Royal Palm Sequoia Cedar
10:15a.m.-11:30a.m.	Repeat Breakout Session Cop-2-Cop	Maple
11:30a.m.-11:45a.m.	Break	Lobby and Exhibition Area
11:45a.m.-12:30p.m.	General Session Regional Breakout Summaries Reese Butler	Ballroom
12:30p.m.-1:30p.m.	Lunch DMHMRSAS Presentation of Trainer Awards and Special Recognition Betsy Draine Lunch Keynote Speaker Jerry Reed, SAMHSA <u>"Effective Advocacy"</u>	Ballroom
1:45p.m.-3:00 p.m.	Breakout Sessions Suicide and the Elderly Survivors Panel Suicide by Cop: Barricaded Hostage Situations Tips for the Professional: Asking the Question Maryland Suicide Prevention Model Crisis Lines and Suicide Prevention The Surviving Congregation	Royal Palm Oak Cedar Crepe Myrtle Ballroom Maple Sequoia
3:00p.m.-3:15p.m.	Break	Lobby and Exhibition Area
3:15p.m.-4:00p.m.	Closing Karen Marshall Christy Letsom	Ballroom